

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-71. (cancelled)

72. (currently amended) An assembly comprising a valve prosthesis and a prosthesis fixing device comprising:

a tubular element providing a lumen therethrough and intended to lie, when the prosthesis fixing device is in an inserted position, with an outside in contact with a wall part of the circulatory system and to accommodate [[a]] said valve prosthesis, inside the lumen of said tubular element, the tubular element having pins distributed around a periphery of the tubular element, said pins having pointed ends for penetrating the peripheral wall when the prosthesis fixing device is in the inserted position,

wherein the pointed ends face in radially outward direction of the tubular element, and each pin is arranged on an arm which, via a bend line, is attached by one end to the tubular element in a manner which permits swinging around said bend line, and

wherein the arms and pins are movable, by swinging about the bend line, from an insertion position, in which they are essentially located inside the lumen of the tubular element,

into a fixing position in which at least the pins, viewed in the radial direction, project from the outside of the tubular element,

the valve prosthesis comprising a cylindrical outer body fitting in said tubular element.

73. (currently amended) The assembly according to Claim 72, characterised in that the arms and pins are located within the longitudinal boundaries of the tubular element in the insertion position and in that the tubular element is provided with radial passages, viewed in radial direction of the tubular element, located alongside the pins and arms in the radial direction, ~~in particular slit shaped passages extending in the longitudinal direction of the arms~~, such that, ~~the pins are able to emerge through these passages~~ on swinging from the insertion position into the fixing position, the pins emerge through these passages and the arms are located within the passages.

74. (previously presented) The assembly according to Claim 72, characterised in that the arms, viewed in the longitudinal direction of the tubular element, extend essentially in said longitudinal direction.

75. (previously presented) The assembly according to claim 73, characterised in that the arms extend in tangential direction of the tubular element.

76. (withdrawn) The assembly according to Claim 72, characterised in that each arm has at least two pins.

77. (previously presented) The assembly according to Claim 72, characterised in that the arms viewed from the bend line point away from the surrounding vascular tissue.

78. (withdrawn) The assembly according to Claim 72, characterised in that the tubular element has a bottom and/or top flange extending in the circumferential direction of the tubular element, which flange, at least in the inserted position, projects outwards with respect to the tubular element in order to come into contact with, or at least to overlap, the bottom or, respectively, the top of surrounding vascular wall tissue.

79. (withdrawn) The assembly according to Claim 78, characterised in that the bottom or, respectively, top flange has a number of flange fingers separated from one another by incisions, cut-outs or folds and distributed around the periphery of the tubular element.

80. (withdrawn) The assembly according to claim 79, characterised in that the ends of the flange fingers each carry a said pin, and in that said fingers form said arms.

81. (withdrawn) The assembly according to Claim 72, characterised in that the tubular element is provided with a lower limit in order to prevent a prosthesis placed in the tubular element after implantation of the prosthesis fixing device from detaching from the tubular element in the downward direction and/or with a top closure in order to prevent a prosthesis placed in the tubular element after implantation of

the prosthesis fixing device from detaching from the tubular element in the upward direction.

82. (withdrawn) The assembly according to Claim 81, characterised in that the lower limit comprises a stop arranged inside the tubular element at the bottom thereof.

83. (withdrawn) The assembly according to Claim 81, characterised in that the top closure comprises resilient snap-fit lips.

84. (cancelled)

85. (withdrawn) The assembly according to Claim 72, characterised in that the arms and pins are arranged at least partially in accordance with a sine wave-like pattern in the peripheral direction of the tubular element.

86. (withdrawn) The assembly according to Claim 85, characterised in that the sine wave path has a length of three sine periods together spanning the periphery of the tubular element.

87. (withdrawn) The assembly according to Claim 72, characterised in that the tubular element is a sine-wave-shaped ring or sine-wave-shaped cylindrical element with three sine wave periods.

88. (currently amended) The assembly according to Claim 72, characterised in that the arms provided with pins are bendable against a resilient force from an initial position into the insertion position and are fixable in said insertion position

in such a way that the fixing can be released in order to cause the arms provided with pins to bend back ~~to, or at least in the direction of,~~ toward the ~~inserted~~ fixing position under the influence of the resilient force.

89. (withdrawn) The assembly according to Claim 72, characterised in that at least part of the external surface of the tubular element is concave.

90. (withdrawn) The assembly according to Claim 72, characterised in that the tubular element is provided with two or more rows of arms, provided with pins, running in the peripheral direction.

91-121. (cancelled)

122. (new) The assembly according to claim 73, wherein the radial passages are slit-shaped and extend in the longitudinal direction of the arms.

123. (new) The assembly according to claim 72, wherein the prosthesis fixing device is made of one piece as an integral whole.

124. (new) The assembly according to claim 73, wherein the prosthesis fixing device is made from one part as an integral whole.